

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected the pending claims as follows. Claims 1-5, 10-12, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,134,246 (Cai). Claims 6-9, 13-17, and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cai in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,648,970 (Kapoor).

Regarding the Examiner's objection to the Disclosure, the Disclosure has been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection. No new matter is added.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of independent Claim 1, the Examiner states that Cai teaches each and every element of Claim 1. After reviewing the cited references, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is incorrect. Cai teaches a method and an apparatus for inverse multiplexing a stream of asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) cells received from a high-bandwidth communication link over a plurality of low-bandwidth communication links. More particularly, Cai teaches performing transmission/reception operation over a plurality of low bandwidth communication links between ATM switches. In contrast, Claim 1 includes the recitation of determining whether a specific service uses at least two links, when there is transmission data for the service, which is neither taught nor suggested by Cai. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) of Claim 1 be withdrawn.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of independent Claim 6, Claim 6 has been amended and is now further distinguished. Cai is discussed above. Kapoor teaches a system and a method for buffering out-of-sequence packets arriving from a lower service over a multi-path communication network. In contrast, amended Claim 6 includes the recitation of determining whether a packet is received through a selected link among the plurality of links, wherein the packet is for a specific service using at least two links, and the selected link is the link among the at least two links, which is neither taught nor suggested by Cai or Kapoor or the combination thereof. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of Claim 6 be withdrawn.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of independent Claim 10, the Examiner states that Cai teaches each and every element of Claim 10. Upon reviewing the cited reference, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is incorrect. As discussed above, Cai teaches transmitting ATM cells between a first ATM switch and a second ATM switch using signal virtual connection (VC). Although Cai discloses registers such as random access memory (RAM) devices 400A-D are maintained by the associated CPU 320 for keeping track of the current traffic level associated with low band-width communication links 40A-D, Cai does not teach or suggest a memory for storing sequence number and ID of links allocated for a specific service among the plurality of links in association with the service, as recited in Claim 10. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) of Claim 10 be withdrawn.

Regarding, the Examiner's rejection of independent Claim 13, the Examiner states that the combination of Cai and Kapoor teach each and every element of Claim 13. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is incorrect for at least the same reasons as set forth above with regard to the rejection of Claim 10, as Kapoor does not cure the above-noted deficiencies of Cai. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of Claim 13 be withdrawn.

Regarding, the Examiner's rejection of independent Claim 18, the Examiner states that Cai teaches each and every element of Claim 18. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is incorrect. Cai teaches a data message contains only the sequence number of the message and the user payload. In contrast Claim 18 includes the recitation of a virtual circuit (VC) adaptation process for sending the packet with the sequence number and ID of the selected link to a transport layer, which is neither taught nor suggested by Cai. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) of Claim 18 be withdrawn.

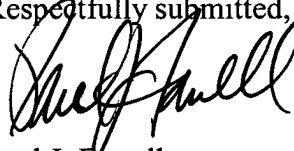
Regarding, the Examiner's rejection of independent Claim 21, the Examiner states that the combination of Cai and Kapoor teach each and every element of Claim 21. Claim 21 includes a VC adaptation process which was discussed above with respect to the rejection of Claim 18. Accordingly, Claim 21 is believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons set forth above with respect to the rejection of Claim 18. Withdrawal of the

rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of Claim 21 is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 1, 6, 10, 13, 18, and 21 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 2-5, 7-9, 11-12, 14-17, 19-20, and 22-24, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective amended independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 2-5, 7-9, 11-12, 14-17, 19-20, and 22-24 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-24, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul J. Farrell
Reg. No. 33,494
Attorney for Applicant

DILWORTH & BARRESE, LLP
333 Earle Ovington Blvd.
Uniondale, New York 11553
Tel: (516) 228-8484
Fax: (516) 228-8516

PJF/VAG/ml